

Middle School Guidance



November 2004

What is Sexual Harassment?

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School districts around the nation are fighting a new problem: sexual harassment. What is sexual harassment? Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual advances, comments, gestures, and/or physical contact. It includes verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, and is closely associated with gender bias. Behavior that constitutes sexual harassment could include any conduct that refers to sex such as: sexual advances, touching of a sexual nature, graffiti of a sexual nature, displaying/distributing of sexual drawings, pictures and written materials. Other misconduct includes: sexual gestures, sexual or "dirty" jokes, touching of oneself sexually or talking about one's sexual activity in front

of others, spreading rumors about or rating other students as to a sexual activity or performance. These actions are inappropriate, demeaning and illegal. The sexual harassment victim can and does suffer from many problems that mirror a rape victim. At Berlin Brothersvalley Schools, the issue of sexual harassment is being taken very seriously. On November 11, 2004, Shirley Pitts from Victim Services performed in-service training on sexual harassment to the entire staff. As a follow-up, on November 15, 2004, all staff members were again in-serviced by Artise Thomas from the Women's Health Center on "The Law and Sexual Harassment." If you would like more information on sexual harass-

ment, you can contact Shirley Pitts at Victim Services. The phone number is 1-800-755-1983. Artise Thomas can be reached at 1-800-999-7406 at the Women's Help Center.

Quote of the month

"Develop success from failures. Discouragement and failure are two of the surest stepping stones to success." (Dale Carnegie)



**Happy
Thanksgiving**

Points of Interest:

- ✓ - Absent from school, check out the teacher lesson plans at <http://www.bbsd.com/ms/plans.htm>
- ✓ - Excuses are due the day students return to school. A grace period of three days is allowed before becoming illegal.
- ✓ - Bullying information can be found at: <http://www.bbsd.com/bullying>

Contact Mr. Smith

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Important Upcoming Events

The following are a listing of important dates to remember:

November 1, 2004 - Second six week mid-term.

November 1 - November 5, 2004 - Iowa Test of Basic Skills testing in the middle school. (Grades five through eight)

November 8 - November 12, 2004 - Iowa Test of Basic

Skills testing make-ups in the middle school. (Grades five through eight)

November 11, 2004 - Veteran's Day/Act 80 Day.

November 15, 2004 - Parent/Teacher Conferences.

November 15 - November 19, 2004 - National Education Week.

November 23, 2004 - End of

second six week grading period.

November 24, 2004 - Early Dismissal for Thanksgiving Vacation.

November 25, 2004 - Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

November 26 - November 30, 2004 - Thanksgiving Vacation.

November 29, 2004 - Buck/Doe Season begins.